

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH

WHAT THE SOVIET PEOPLE ARE BEING TOLD THROUGH THE SOVIET PRESS AND RADIO
(OCTOBER 31 and NOVEMBER 1)

1. Summary - The volume of Soviet Press coverage of the Cuban crisis slackened perceptibly on October 31 with material on the upcoming 45th anniversary of the October Revolution now dominating all papers. Although references to Soviet military strength were more subdued than last week, the press still carried warnings concerning the "irresponsibility" of "provocative" elements in the US who sought to prolong the crisis. On November 1, press comment appeared directed against US resumption of the quarantine and toward impressing on the Soviet people the necessity of obtaining concrete guarantees against future invasion attempts. Although Castro's five demands, which were said to receive "wide support from peace loving peoples", were given considerable publicity, Soviet propaganda media did not suggest that the USSR would demand their fulfillment. Jamming of VOA news appeared to be somewhat heavier than a day ago, covering most news items.
2. TASS Reports Resumption of "Blockade" and Reconnaissance Flights, Departure of Mikoyan for Cuba and Return of U Thant - Brief factual reports from TASS concerning the above events were carried in home broadcasts late on October 31. U Thant's visit to Cuba was favorably presented with emphasis on his "fruitful" discussions and the agreement which was reached on "further UN mediation for a peaceful settlement" of the Cuban crisis.
3. Soviet Domestic Radio Reports "Alarm" in US at Resumption of "Blockade" A dispatch from Aleksander Druzhinin in New York, broadcast over Radio Moscow for home audiences on November 1, states that the Washington announcement concerning resumption of the quarantine "roused alarm among millions of people in America." The report declares that "war hysteria" had hardly died down when the "ominous word 'blockade' again appears in the press."
4. Red Star Calls for "Concrete Measures" to Confirm US Pledge Not to Invade Cuba - On November 1 Red Star, in an article quoted by Tass claims "the world is expecting the US to take concrete measures confirming its pledge not to invade Cuba." Stating that the withdrawal of missiles from Cuba had foiled US "warmongers", it warned "if Russian Armed forces were still watching the "intrigues of the imperialist aggressors." Moscow home radio broadcasts repeating the article then listed Castro's five conditions without comment.
5. Izvestia Article: "Not a Trial of Strength but Negotiations" - Izvestia observer Polyanov, in an article on October 31 summing up the results of the Cuban crisis, states that "we have just witnessed how the world was saved as a result of the wise and resolute actions by the Soviet Union."

Polyanov concludes that this success should be "developed" and that "the doors are wide open for this."

c. Jamming - According to a preliminary report from VOA, jamming of VOA news was heavy in the early broadcasts on November 1 and was not confined to Cuban news. Feature articles on the Cuban crisis were also jammed.